

VZCZCXYZ0001  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAK #0552 071112Z  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 121122Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1289  
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 0286  
RHMFISS/39ABG INCIRLIK AB TU PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE PRIORITY  
RHMFISS/CDR USTRANSCOM SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY  
RUEUITH/ODC ANKARA TU PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//USDP:PDUSDP/ISA:EUR/ISA:NESA/DSCA// PRIORITY  
RUEHAK/USDAO ANKARA TU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000552

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/09/2017  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [MARR](#) [FR](#) [GE](#) [SP](#) [AU](#) [TU](#)  
SUBJECT: TURKISH GENERAL STAFF TAKING A HARDER LINE WITH  
ALLIED MISSIONS

REF: A. IIR 6 898 0130 07  
[1](#)B. IIR 6 898 0158 07  
[1](#)C. ANKARA 0531

Classified By: DCM Nancy McEldowney for reasons 1.4 (b,d).

[1](#)1. (C) The Turkish General Staff (TGS), in some cases  
fronted by the Foreign Ministry, is taking a harder line on  
routine military cooperation with allies.

-- Ankara-based diplomats told us that blanket overflight  
clearances granted to France, Germany, Spain, and Canada for  
support to Operation Enduring Freedom were abruptly  
terminated by the government over the past two weeks (ref a).

MFA Aviation Department Head Hamit Olcay explained to us  
March 6 that the French OEF blanket clearance permission,  
granted in 2001, had lapsed in 2003 but flights had been  
allowed to continue until now. When asked about the timing  
of the GOT termination announcement, Olcay admitted that  
Turkish-French tension over the French national assembly's  
vote of a law criminalizing denial of an Armenian genocide  
played a role. He added that the French were welcome to  
reapply for a blanket clearance. Olcay admitted no knowledge  
of terminated blanket clearances for Germany and other  
allies. The German political counselor confirmed that their  
clearance, also issued in 2001, had lapsed, but saw no  
political motive for the Turkish move. She noted that German  
OEF support flights rarely transit Turkey, so loss of the  
blanket clearance had little effect on operations.

-- A UK Poloff told us March 8 that the UK mission in Ankara  
was perplexed by a series of recent incidents involving the  
Turkish military. She reported that DCHOD GEN Ergin Saygun  
had sought to postpone, at short notice, an official visit to  
the UK planned for mid-March. The TGS had also requested a  
postponement of upcoming high-level defense talks scheduled  
for the third week in March. They offered an overburdened  
schedule as the excuse for the postponements (ref b).  
Finally, the UK ambassador was discouraged from making a  
courtesy visit to a small UK detachment at Incirlik airbase  
when informed that both the base commander and his deputy  
would be too busy to see him.

-- The Australian DCM told us March 8 that her embassy was  
having difficulties organizing annual ANZAC day  
commemorations at Gallipoli, having been informed by the TGS  
that Australian officials were prohibited from coordinating  
event preparations with local Turkish Armed Forces  
commanders. Contrary to past practice, she reported, the

Australians were told they may now only work through TGS headquarters staff in Ankara.

-- In our own case, we have been notified by TGS that US flag officer visitors would no longer be accorded distinguished visitor courtesies at Turkish airports unless specifically invited by the TGS (ref c). The TGS notification said the policy change was the result of lack of DV treatment for Turkish flag officer visitors to the US (Note. This seemed to refer to the lack of VIP reception facilities at US commercial airports. End Note). In addition, the TGS requested on March 8 that the Combined Planning Conference (CPC), part of our High-Level Defense Group agenda and long scheduled for April, be postponed to May due to heavy workload at TGS.

2 (C) Comment. Since becoming CHOD at the end of August 2006, GEN Buyukanit has significantly tightened procedures and paid more attention to reciprocity issues in dealing with allied missions. The timing and motivation for the actions described above raise questions, however. With the possibility of Congress passing an Armenian genocide resolution in the coming weeks and a likely harsh public and official Turkish response, we are watching the French-Turkish military relationship with particular interest. We will continue to monitor Turkish military attitudes and actions with regard to our operations and those of our allies in this critical region. End Comment.

Visit Ankara's Classified Web Site at  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/ankara/>

WILSON